

Amendment right against unreasonable searches, since he had already passed through the metal detector without setting off alarms. Finally there was his client's Sixth Amendment right to the lawyer of his choice—a right that could be exercised only if Mr. Bhalla forfeited his own rights.

Mr. Bhalla refused to remove his turban, and the guards refused to let him in. But on Jan. 17, the federal Bureau of Prisons issued a clarification of its search policy, after Mr. Bhalla asserted all of these rights in Federal District Court here, before the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice in Washington and, armed with letters of support from a host of Sikh groups, directly to the Bureau of Prisons hierarchy.

Dan Dunn, a spokesman for the bureau, said that religious garments like turbans, prayer shawls or yarmulkes need not be considered part of the routine searches of personal effects that prison guards must make of visitors. They could be searched, he said, if there is a "reasonable suspicion that the person is about to engage in or is engaging in criminal activity."

What Mr. Dunn described as a simple clarification of policy is being hailed as a milestone by Mr. Bhalla and others. They say that by treating searches of religious garments as distinct from other personal-effects searches and subjecting them to stricter requirements, the agency is recognizing their intrusiveness.

"This marks a significant improvement in agency policy," said Harpreet Singh, the director of the Sikh Coalition, an amalgam of groups representing the nation's estimated 500,000 Sikhs. The group was founded just after Sept. 11, 2001, when many Sikhs found themselves the objects of suspicion at airports and elsewhere.

Since the terror attacks, he said, his group has won concessions from the federal Department of Transportation on airport security searches of Sikhs, given the faith's prohibitions against removing turbans, as well as the requirement among the more devout that they carry a "kirpan," or dagger.

Under the department's revised procedures, turbans will not be searched unless there is a positive reading on a metal detector. For their part, Sikh groups have agreed that it is legitimate to require those carrying daggers to secure the items in their checked luggage.

"But the broader significance of all of this is that we are educating a broader range of people about Sikhs and our rights," Mr. Singh said.

Sikhism, a monotheistic religion, dates back to the 15th century in the Punjab region of what is now India. Its doctrine has evolved through a succession of prophets or gurus, and in an atmosphere of persecution by the larger numbers of Hindus and Muslims in South Asia. One of Sikhism's main requirements is that adherents not cut their hair, which is considered a visible testament to their connection with their creator, especially in times of persecution.

Mr. Bhalla said many people mistakenly believe that the Sikh turban is a hatlike garment molded in one piece. It is actually a long swath of cotton, 3 feet by more than 15 feet, which takes Mr. Bhalla 15 minutes each morning to fold and carefully wind onto his head.

In taking on Mr. Bhalla at the gates of the Metropolitan Detention Center, guards may have picked the wrong person, said Gerald Krovatin, a New Jersey criminal lawyer in whose firm Mr. Bhalla works. Mr. Krovatin said that last November his colleague was one of the founding members of the national Sikh Bar Association and the only one among the estimated 50 Sikh lawyers in the country who is a criminal litigator.

Perhaps the seminal moment for Mr. Bhalla came in a federal courtroom in New-

ark when he was just 13. He and his father were attending a hearing for two Sikh community leaders whom the United States attorney's office was trying to extradite to India as suspected terrorists.

Mr. Bhalla recalled that SWAT teams and snipers were stationed outside the court, and plainclothes agents shadowed his and his father's every step because the judge and the prosecutor had reported receiving death threats. It turned out that the prosecutor in the case was the one sending the death threats, apparently in an effort to heighten the sense of danger.

Mr. Bhalla said the incident taught him how "ridiculous" stereotyping and prejudice could be.

"Right now Sikhs are going through some of the same things that African-Americans went through, and like them we are learning the importance of having some political power and knowing how the system works," he said. "But we are just starting."

#### TRIBUTE TO AARON MARK DUNN

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 7, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Mark Dunn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch and the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada. Over the 6 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. Aaron also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Aaron renovated, repaired and painted the Wheeling Municipal Ball Park in Wheeling, Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Mark Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING GUEST CHAPLAIN,  
PASTOR BARRY COOK, AMBASSADOR FAMILY CHURCH, OCEANSIDE, CA

##### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 7, 2003*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Senior Pastor Barry Cook, of the Ambassador Family Church in Oceanside, California.

Pastor Barry Cook was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended Logos Christian College and has a doctorate in Ministry, Christian Leadership, and Church Growth. Dr. Cook has been a full-time minister for almost 20 years.

Pastor Cook is joined today by his wife Terri, whom he has been married to for 13 years. He is also joined by his daughter, Joy, who is a fourth grader at Vista Christian School.

After opening its doors seven years ago, Ambassador Family Church has quickly grown to approximately 800 attending members. Pastor Cook has been very active in outreach efforts to the community through local food and clothing distribution, financial recovery seminars, leadership classes and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chaplain Coughlin for his invitation to Pastor Cook to offer the invocation. I would also like to thank the Cooks for traveling to our Nation's capital to be with us today.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

##### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and all America in extending heartfelt sympathy and sincere appreciation to the families of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* crew and the entire NASA family. We are honored by the sacrifices these families have made supporting their loved ones in the space program.

When the *Columbia* did not return as scheduled on February 1, 2003, the former employees of a now closed aerospace plant, as well as the local residents, felt a particularly painful loss. Key portions of the mighty Space Shuttle *Columbia* were built in my Congressional District at the former Rockwell International plant in the City of Downey.

Years before most Americans would become familiar with NASA's space shuttle program, construction of *Columbia* was in full swing at the Rockwell plant in Downey. The crew modules, the rear fuselage and the forward reaction control system were all constructed locally with dozens of subcontractors contributing to the effort. At its peak, the project employed 14,000 local residents.

The men and women who helped build the *Columbia* took great pride in their labor and in each of the shuttle's successful flights. It was their work that built the shuttle, that put it and its crew in space and that safely brought them all home again. For them, the *Columbia* truly was a labor of both love and pride.

Losing the *Columbia* was a particularly emotional blow for workers of the former shuttle-manufacturing plant since they had also worked on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. For the people of Downey and the former employees of Rockwell, the crews of the *Columbia* and the *Challenger* will forever have a special place in their hearts and in the history of the city.

I commend Downey's civic and business leaders for their current efforts to utilize the now-empty birthplace of the early shuttles as the linchpin of their economic revitalization efforts. Their plans to include a space museum